

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10
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AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01 CEQ-01 EPA-01 DOTE-00
HUD-01 HEW-04 STR-07 INT-05 NSF-01 OIC-02 FDRE-00
JUSE-00 FTC-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /150 W
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O 181406Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0243

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USOECD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OECD, TGEN, OVIP
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS OF OES ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATSY
T. MINK WITH OECD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRON-
MENT DIRECTORATE OFFICIALS, APRIL 13-14, 1978

REF: REYNDERS/PACKER TELECON APRIL 17

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK MET ON APRIL 13 WITH
DIRECTOR DAVID BECKLER, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE
OECD DIRECTORATE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY
TO DISCUSS S&T MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST TO THE U.S.
AND OECD. ON APRIL 14, SHE ATTENDED A COMPREHENSIVE
BRIEFING ON THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE'S PROJECTS.

2. BECKLER AND HIS STAFF EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR
THE U.S. TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM OF TRANSNATIONAL DATA
FLOW. WESTERN EUROPE, THEY STATED, IS MOVING ON THIS
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SUBJECT BOTH ON A NATIONAL BASIS AND THROUGH THE COUN-
CIL OF EUROPE AND OECD. NATIONAL CONTROLS CAN OR WILL
AFFECT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE DATA FLOWS. THE U.S.
HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN RESPONSIVE. UNLESS INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS FOR ACCESS TO DATA AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
ARE AGREED UPON, UNPALATABLE OR RESTRICTIVE REGULATIONS
COULD RESULT BY NATIONAL LAW IN EUROPE. THE U.S. MUST

DECIDE WHAT ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE AND REPRESENT THESE TO THE OECD. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE USG HAD NOT YET COME UP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND SUGGESTED THAT THE OECD MIGHT HOLD A MEETING ON THE SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON. BECKLER ADVISED THAT THERE IS TO BE A MEETING THERE IN MAY WHICH THEY COULD CONSIDER EXPANDING. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ONGOING EVENTS CREATED A SITUATION OF URGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED U.S. POSITION.

3. IN DISCUSSION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, OECD STAFFERS SAID THAT THERE ARE A RANGE OF THEORIES ON THE EFFECTS OF TRANSFERS, RANGING FROM THE VIEW THAT EVERY TECHNOLOGY EXPORT CREATES A LOSS OF JOBS IN THE EXPORTING COUNTRY, TO THE OPPOSITE POSITION THAT ANY TRANSFER PERMITTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF GLOBAL ASSETS IS A NET GAIN TO THE WORLD. THE OECD IS TRYING TO TEST THE THESIS THAT ANY INCREASE IN LDC PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY PRODUCES AN EVEN GREATER INCREASE IN LDC ABILITY TO ABSORB IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO DOCUMENT THIS THESIS BUT HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES MAKE NO EFFORT TO ESTIMATE THE PROBABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AN LDC AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TO PROJECT THAT ESTIMATE INTO HOW THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL AFFECT THE TRANSFERRING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY. WHILE DOUBTING THAT ADEQUATE DATA AND A USABLE MODEL ARE AVAILABLE, MRS. MINK INDICATED THAT SHE WOULD TRY TO SEE IF SUCH STUDIES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE U.S.

4. THE OECD STAFF NOTED THAT THE GROUP OF 77 IS PUSHING FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN UNCTAD. THE OECD IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP A UNITED POSITION AMONGST THEIR MEMBER STATES BEFORE THE UNCTAD MEETING. WHILE GENERALLY SKEPTICAL OF THE DESIRABILITY OF A CODE, THEY NOTED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LDCS AND OECD COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT, THERE IS THE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND POSSIBLY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COULD PROLIFERATE TO THE DETRIMENT OF FREE TRADE.

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5. SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, BECKLER NOTED A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN OECD COUNTRIES AND LDCS ON THE MEANING AND USES OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THE U.S. AND OTHER OECD COUNTRIES ARE SEEKING TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. THE LDCS DO NOT LIKE THE PHRASE, SINCE TO THEM IT CONVEYS AN INTENT TO DENY THEM THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDED FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND AN INTERFERENCE IN THEIR NATIONAL PLANNING AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THIS VIEW IS REINFORCED BY THE SOMETIMES NEGATIVE IMAGE OF POWERFUL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WHICH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN THE PRIMARY TRANSMISSION BELT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. NONETHELESS, BECKLER FEELS THAT THE LDCS ARE BEGINNING TO SEE THAT, WHEN THE OECD COUNTRIES TALK ABOUT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, THEY MEAN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AS WELL AS OTHERWISE UPGRADING THE GENERAL QUALITY OF LIFE.

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6. THE THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS INVOLVED THE KEY SUPERVISORS AND EXPERTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE AND COVERED THE PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENT

AND THE CITY, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND INDUSTRY. HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS CITED FROM SPECIFIC PROJECTS. SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO THE CHEMICALS PROGRAM, THE U.S. URBAN INITIATIVE, THE LEGAL BASIS OF TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION CONTROL, THE NECESSARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENERGY INSTALLATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE FUTURE PROGRAM IDEAS OF THE DIRECTORATE STAFF. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S. WERE REFLECTED IN THE CONCERNS OF OTHER OECD COUNTRIES AND CONSEQUENTLY IN THE OECD PROGRAMS.

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